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March 1985

Amtrak gets ready to phase in CETC

...for the new age of railways

High tech on the right-of-way

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Southern's crewless tamper

RAILWAY AGE
...for the new age of railways
March 1985

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Traditionally conservative engineering departments have been slow to enter the computer age, but the net result of their efforts is a high-tech roadway.

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Cover: Southern's automated tamper was photographed by *Railway Age* Photo Editor Roy H. Blanchard.

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Market Outlook

Equipment

BC Rail: Ordered five SD40-2 locomotives from the Diesel Division of General Motors of Canada Limited, not from the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors as earlier reported (*RA*, December 1984, p. 12).

CN Rail: Major items in a $594-million (Canadian) 1985 capital budget include $118 million for new and rebuilt locomotives, $55 million for new and converted freight cars, $36 million for intermodal equipment and facilities, $75 million for rail, $52 million for 1.8 million wood and 200,000 concrete ties, and $23 million for two million cubic meters of ballast. Of the total capital budget, $244 million is allocated for western expansion and upgrading, bringing to more than $1 billion the railroad's investment in the west since 1980.

- Contracts were announced in February for 205 new freight cars costing $34 million. National Steel Car will supply 52 low-deck, articulated, five-platform intermodal cars at a cost of just over $17 million, and Hawker Siddeley will supply 153 fully-enclosed bi-level cars at a cost of almost $17 million.
- CN Rail will rebuild 43 locomotives at its Pointe St. Charles shops this year at a cost of approximately $32 million.

Chessie System: Will acquire 662 new multi-level rack cars to handle anticipated automotive business expansion.

Facilities

Bay Area Rapid Transit: Broke ground Feb. 11 for the long-planned $150-million Daly City Turnback Project, part of a five-year, $500-million effort designed to expand BART's peak-hour capacity by 85%.

Chessie System: Included in a $173-million 1985 track program will be installation of 500 miles of cwr, insertion of 2 million crossties, and 5,000 miles of surfacing.

Seaboard System: Plans to install 623 miles of cwr, insert 1.9 million crossties, and surface 7,400 miles as part of this year's $203-million track program.

Revenue freight carloadings

Commodity	Feb. 9 week	Feb. 2 week	Jan. 26 week	Jan. 19 week
Grain	23,562	25,722	24,113	26,970
Other farm products	3,296	3,765	4,275	5,087
Metallic ores	13,629	12,791	10,267	9,456
Coal	100,710	100,064	85,100	103,737
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,720	7,878	7,161	8,705
Nonmetallic minerals	10,224	10,417	8,999	9,103
Grain mill products	10,977	11,113	10,422	10,847
Food and kindred products	11,075	11,145	10,744	10,895
Primary forest products	11,139	12,042	11,120	13,105
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,372	7,258	6,903	6,853
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,375	14,893	13,759	14,688
Chemicals and allied products	24,300	24,865	24,038	24,900
Petroleum products	4,625	4,702	4,596	4,811
Stone, clay and glass products	8,091	8,769	8,377	9,278
Coke	4,812	5,137	5,862	5,048
Metals and products	8,242	8,802	7,145	7,722
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,057	22,113	20,648	22,736
Waste and scrap materials	8,198	8,451	7,372	8,899
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	7,069	7,242	6,335	6,399
All other carloads	55,857	56,519	52,417	54,987
LCL traffic	156	255	166	132
Total Cars Loaded	**356,486**	**363,943**	**327,819**	**364,358**
% change from previous year	(9.8)	(8.4)	(15.2)	(0.8)

Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	1985	1984	% change
6 weeks	94.9	102.7	(7.6)

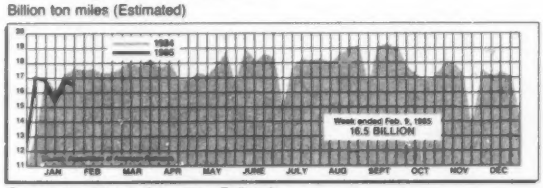
Piggyback loadings

	Jan. 26 week	Jan. 19 week	Jan. 12 week	Jan. 5 week
Cars	50,048	51,119	49,842	33,791
Trailers/containers	80,439	81,277	78,944	54,623

Cumulative total, 4 weeks		% change from 1984
Cars	184,800	1.3%
Trailers/containers	298,763	(7.1)

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED		ORDERED		ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED	Average Backlog	
	1985	Jan. 1984	1985	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1, 1985	Jan. 1, 1985	Feb. 1, 1984
Built new by carbuilders	887	415	403	2,736	4,064	4,548*	5,650
Built new in RR shops	336	0	0	0	70	406	0
Built new—total	1,223	415	403	2,736	4,134	4,954	5,650
Rebuilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1,223	415	403	2,736	4,134	4,954	5,650
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	23	15	N/A	N/A	253	108	85

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute

*Revised figure.